

ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

Published by A. B. Claxton & Co., at \$5 a year, payable in advance.

VOL. VI.—No. 10.] WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1838 [WHOLE No. 166.

FRENCH EXPLORING EXPEDITION.

FRENCH NAVY.—It has been generally supposed and conceded that the French military officers, as a body, possess more science and pay more attention to the scientific branches of their profession than those of any other nation. Whether this remark will hold equally good with the army and navy, we cannot confidently assert. But if we may believe M. Arago, himself a distinguished astronomer and man of learning, the French Ministry consider science as of little utility. On the discussion of the budget for the Navy, for 1838, in the Chamber of Deputies, M. Arago is reported to have said:

There is in the administration of the Marine (it will be observed I do not speak of the Ministers) a strong antipathy to the scientific part of the naval service which is truly inexplicable. I may add that this antipathy is ingratitude. What would they have been without the aid of science? The form of their ships is what science has given them. To whom do they owe the admirable instruments with which, in the most fearful tempests, observations can be taken with almost as much accuracy as on land? If they would protect their ships from lightning; preserve water pure for the longest voyages; carry with them wholesome food, delicacies for their tables, and what is of most importance, comfort for their sick; to whom do they owe these? To whom do they owe that wonderful invention, steam vessels, an invention destined to change all maritime relations, and render us all-powerful, provided we know how to employ it to the most advantage? It becomes us well to understand that to men of science we owe all these.

I have said, gentlemen, that the administration of the Marine evince an inconceivable antipathy to the services of science in the naval art. The accusation is grave, and I feel bound to justify it by facts.

I have myself heard a Minister of the Marine (it was not Admiral Rosamel, nor his honorable predecessor) say, upon a serious occasion, that science was a nuisance to the navy! and that, though he was himself a distinguished proof to the contrary. The Chamber is occupied by a solicitude, in which all Europe joins for the fate of the unfortunate Blosseville. It was not in the polar seas this excellent officer first made his appearance. While young he made a voyage round the world. At a more recent period he sailed for India in the corvette "*Loiret*." In the course of this last voyage, after having performed each day, with scrupulous exactness, all the duties of his position, instead of remaining inactive, or smoking a pipe, or playing chess or chequers, he devoted himself to nautical and meteorological researches, to general physics, and even natural history. All on board were associated in his labors. This young man returned to France full of high hopes and expectations from the rich harvest he had made. But the Marine took no notice of him; did not even ask him to deposit his observations among their archives; nay, they frankly told him that he would be lost by such observations, and if he desired promotion, must forget his voyage in the *Loiret*.

Blosseville confided to me the registers of his voyage to India, when he sailed on his deplorable expedition to the north; but under the express condition (upon which his advancement seemed to depend) that they should be published only in the event of some misfortune befalling him. I shall publish them, gentlemen, and the scientific world will appreciate all that might have been looked for from this

excellent young man. Blosseville followed the course prescribed to him. He went to Toulon, and this time he made not the slightest observation. Still later he went to Greece. There the desire of being useful again got the better of his prudence. He landed upon several islands, and in Asia Minor, and there, in secret, determined the different elements of terrestrial magnetism. These documents were not communicated to the Marine. I am the depository, and the scientific world will not be deprived of them. I regret being led to divulge such things; but they should be known that the public may reprobate them. Is it not strange that certain persons have brought themselves to believe that those are no longer able to lead in a battle, who occupy themselves with the sciences? Gentlemen, did the hydrographical labors of Admiral Roussin prevent his forcing the entrance of the *Ta-gus*?

If it is desired, we will view this question in another light. Ask of the navy to cite the expeditions to which the intervention of scientific men were injurious. Who would know, at this moment, that there existed a government vessel called the *Bonite*, making a voyage round the world, if the Academy of Sciences had not given them their instructions, if they had not traced out for them the plan of their researches? Has it not often happened, that the administration of the Marine have organized expeditions upon their own views, without any intervention of academic bodies? Did they then perform wonders? on the contrary, the expeditions have produced very small and insignificant results. Take for example the voyage of the "*Favorite*," by Captain Laplace; this voyage is certainly very amusing, very curious; but in nautical information there is almost nothing. I have looked over the four volumes of which it is composed, with the greatest care, and there is not one single observation upon the temperature of the ocean; and yet the temperature of the ocean is not only a scientific data, but it is connected in the highest degree with the interests of navigation. It is by observations of the temperature of the ocean that the inexplicable problem of currents must, sooner or later, be resolved. It is thence we must seek whence they come and whither they go.

Of all nautical instruments, that which will render the greatest service is the compass; but the compass, as yet, is employed only to direct the course. One day it will figure in another point of view. One word will be sufficient to make our idea comprehended. A magnetic needle, suspended by its centre of gravity, forms an inclination with the horizon; this inclination changes with the place. The variation of the inclination may then serve to discover the distance the vessel has sailed in unfavorable weather, thus rendering recourse to the stars unnecessary. The inclination will sooner or later perform an important part in navigation. Look over the voyage of the *Favorite*, and you will not find one single observation of this kind. This is certainly not to be attributed to a deficiency of skill in the officers, but to the expedition having been prepared in the bureaux without receiving from the Academy of Science those instructions which would certainly add to their renown. To those who, not being able to deny the accuracy of my assertions, would reply that this is an old story, and that such is the case no longer, I would state that the evil is perhaps greater at the present day than formerly.

Have not two large vessels just been sent on a voyage round the world? Their departure was kept secret. The attention of scientific men must not be called to it. The commander of one of these frigates has not whispered one word of it; he has sailed, also

without any hydrographer. The result will be seen. The other came to consult with me. I immediately spoke of the Academy of Sciences. "Do not consult them," he said, "it would, in all probability, cause me to lose my command."

This antipathy, with which I have so long detained you, is brought to light occasionally in all the branches of service, of which the following is an example: You are all aware that the boilers of steam vessels cannot always be filled up with fresh water. The feeding water is selenetic, holding in solution the sulphate and the carbonate of lime. The pure water is alone evaporated. The salts are precipitated, fasten themselves to the boilers, and form in the interior a thick stony crust. What I have just stated is still more true when sea water is used. In a very short time it is in a boiler of stone that the evaporation takes place, and with an immense loss of caloric. At each stopping place, a workman must enter the boiler, with a hammer, to detach this stony crust. This is an unpleasant and expensive operation, and soon destroys the connection of the different parts of the boiler. I have just spoken of the loss of caloric; but there is something much more serious. When the boiler is coated inside with this stony substance, the exterior becomes red hot: in this state, suppose this inner stony crust to crack or break, the cold water falling on the red hot metal suddenly produces a great quantity of steam, for the escape of which the safety valve is by no means sufficient; thence proceed the explosions and accidents which are the inevitable consequence. Only prevent the formation of this solid crust in the boiler, and an immense service will be rendered to all the branches of industry connected with steam. This problem has just been solved. For the interest of the inventor, the solution has but one fault: it is too simple. The patent which has been taken out can prevent no one from making use of his plan.

The Minister of the Marine. I would remark to M. Arago that I have purchased the invention.

M. Arago. I know it, sir, but do not think he received sufficient. To prevent the formation of this stony crust in the boiler of a steam engine, it is sufficient, in future, to mix with the water finely powdered clay. In this consists the discovery of M. Chay. What did the Marine propose to him? It consented to buy the clay at the price of fabrication; in other words, it would give him 14 francs for each voyage of a steam vessel from Toulon to Algiers. I ask, was not this ridiculous? Happily some persons high in place, if I am not mistaken, the Duke of Orleans himself, took an interest in the invention. The Marine improved: they offered him 20,000 francs. For my part, I do not think that sufficient.

Minister of Marine. He has accepted it.

M. Arago. M. Chay has accepted it, because, when compared with the first proposition, this last was very favorable. But 20,000 francs in full for a discovery of so extensive application, I repeat, is not sufficient. I foresee your reply, sir. You would say you have no funds for such an object; but could you not have applied directly to the Chambers? For my part, I feel convinced you would not have been refused the means of properly rewarding so useful a discovery.

The remarks which I have just addressed to the Marine, may be generalized.

In other administrations there are inventors who have also rendered important services to their country; such services as, valued in money, would be incalculable, without it having been once thought of to reward them. I may be permitted, when speaking of so many subjects of construction, to cite here, among other ill-treated inventors, M. Vicat. When a building is erected in a damp soil or under water, a particular kind of lime is required; a lime, to the solidification of which, the water affords no obstacle. This is named hydraulic lime. How was this made formerly? In mixing common lime with puzzolana from Naples, or with trass from the banks of the Rhine.

Thus, formerly, in order to construct a solid building on wet soil, materials must be made use of which were brought from Naples or the Rhine. At present, and we owe it to the labors of M. Vicat, there is no country where hydraulic lime cannot be made. In the art of constructions this is a total revolution; yet he who has brought about this revolution, and thereby economized for individuals and government, say fifty or sixty millions for every ten years, is still engineer in chief "des Ponts et Chaussées," at Grenoble: he has only been elevated to the rank of Inspector of Division.

M. Legrand. (Director "des Ponts et Chaussées.") He has just received the cross of the Legion of Honor.

M. Arago. I have at length reached, gentlemen, the considerations which it is my intention to present to the Chamber. It is a duty which I owe to my conscience. The public papers have informed you, gentlemen, of the itinerary of a new scientific voyage which the Minister of Marine has adopted. This voyage is, I think, badly conceived; it cannot produce other than mortifying or insignificant results. I will not, in this case, have to reproach myself, alas! which I too well merited at the time of the expedition of M. de Blosseville. When that young officer departed for the northern seas, they gave him a vessel which evidently was not fit for this navigation. It was a repaired gun brig, and in a bad state. I knew that the resources of a like equipment were disproportionate to the danger of the expedition; I knew, likewise, that the uncertain results which would attend, would correspond badly with the magnitude of such dangers. I announced to M. de Blosseville that I would oppose, at the tribunal, the object of that voyage, and I hoped to render apparent from that discussion the necessity of postponing the enterprise, or of modifying and directing the zeal of our young officers towards regions less dangerous to explore. I yielded to his solicitations, to which I could not but listen, and no opposition was made. This newly projected voyage presents itself to me in the same character. This day, while there is yet time, to this tribunal will I speak of the endless and useless dangers of such a voyage; and which I ought to have done before M. Blosseville sailed. Would to God, that the new expedition may not share such a fate.

After having rapidly surveyed the Atlantic Ocean, the vessels of M. d'Urville must attempt to pass the Antarctic seas. He will pass the straits of Magellan, the group of the isles of Ducie, Pitcairn, Gambier, Bassa, Bouroulon, &c. Thence making the charts of the isles of Viti, Banks' isles, Solomon's isles, perhaps of Torres' straits, certainly of Cook's straits, which divide New Zealand. They will go to Borneo, Java, or some other islands, and return to Europe by the Cape of Good Hope. What are then the chances of discovery in a voyage to the South Pole? what go you there to seek? The English, you may tell me, have made voyages towards the North Pole! Without doubt; but then they have an important commercial and scientific question. In searching if there existed a communication between Baffin's Bay and Behring's Straits, they wish to discover a passage to China by the north. Some sceptics say the ice will ever be an insurmountable obstacle. The ice, however, is changing, and experiences great thaws. The eastern coast of Greenland was for a long time blocked up, but in these latter times it is accessible. The English might have supposed that the communication between Baffin's Bay and Behring's Straits might occasionally be found open, at which time they could reach China in a very short space of time. They had then, I repeat, commercially speaking, an important question. In a scientific point of view, the voyages have been of use: but how? it is because they remained entire years in the same regions. The observations of Captains Franklin, Parry, Back, and Ross, have solved many curious questions of terrestrial physics. Will it be

the same with this projected expedition? Not at all; M. d'Urville will go to see if there exists a passage by which he may approach the pole. Suppose he finds this passage; suppose even that he reach the pole; what will result from it? I have been officially appointed to draw up the observations to be made in these regions. I am surrounded by scientific and learned men, but not one can give a single suggestion.

Minister of Marine. Is that my fault?

M. Arago. M. d'Urville will not certainly try to reach the pole, merely to ascertain if there is but one day and one night of six months. Of this we are perfectly aware without leaving our places. If he goes there, he can say he has been there, and that will be all. For my part I can see no other result. This is, then, a voyage of mere curiosity. Wise men do not undertake dangerous voyages where there is nothing to be gained either for science or commerce. I have read lately in an English journal the description of a conical, isolated mountain in the isle of France, called the "Peter Botte." The French, who had long been masters of the island, had seen no advantage in climbing to the top of the "Peter Botte," and had never tried it. In my opinion, a proof of their good sense. Three English officers thought differently. In 1832, after great efforts, they attained the summit. What did they do there, I ask? Why they saw the fires of several sugar refineries, fired a gun, planted the British flag, drank a bottle of wine in honor of the King of England; went to bed in linen sheets, were very cold, and could only keep themselves warm by drinking brandy; came down in the morning to tell the inhabitants of Port Louis that they had climbed better than any Frenchman.

Well, gentlemen, I do not envy them their glory. I have less jealousy than pity for the misfortune of one of their countrymen, who, having gained the summit of the most elevated of the Himalaya mountains, had the mortification, at the moment when he was exulting in the thought of having reached where no mortal had ever been before him, in putting his hand in a crevice of a rock, to find a visiting card of another traveller who had been there before. [General laughter.] I repeat, gentlemen, that with regard to science, this voyage is not worth undertaking. They talk of commerce—the fisheries; they tell us the whales take refuge in those regions: it is there that the American fishermen look for them. But this is not exactly so; it is not the whalers who approach the south pole, but the sealers. That which has not yet taken place may yet be so. It is in this view that the North Americans are preparing an expedition *ad hoc* to examine all the places where these whales have taken refuge. To them, their interest makes this subject of vast importance. Thus they shrink from no expense; thus they devote months and even entire years.

To aim at this object with inferior resources, will but insure a failure where our competitors will succeed.

I shall shortly express my repugnance to voyages of curiosity. Even in such a voyage I would not be willing that we should be beaten. Now, in this projected attempt, it must inevitably follow, because the vessels of M. d'Urville are not constructed for this kind of navigation: and again, because this effort to reach the pole is but a portion of an extended voyage. From the first difficulty that presents itself, M. d'Urville must return and fulfil the other parts of his mission in the equatorial seas, and he will act wisely. If he persists in the contrary by reason of the importance which appears to be attached to success, if we may judge by the rewards offered to the seamen, if M. d'Urville passes the first obstacles, you will, and I fear not to say it, be forced the next year to vote funds to go and seek him.

I have said that the Americans have a greater interest than we have to attempt researches towards the south pole. A few words will show if I have advanced too much.

In 1827 the American Government, wishing to be informed of the extent of the whale fishery, directed Mr. Reynolds to examine all the ports from which these expeditions were fitted out. He found that the number of vessels was about 200, and the mean tonnage about 270 tons each; that the mean duration of a voyage was 29 months; that each vessel brought 1,700 barrels of oil, and it was necessary to take 90 whales to make up a cargo; and that every year the American whalers took about 8,000 whales. But this was not all; 2,000 others escaped, after having been sufficiently wounded to destroy them, making 10,000 whales killed each year. At this rate that branch of commerce will not long give employment to nautical men. In 1836, the American Government made new inquiries into the state of the fishery. From official documents it is shown that the whale ships were 460 in number: their mean tonnage being 375 tons. The total tonnage will thus be 172,500 tons. This is one tenth the total tonnage of the American mercantile navy. The mean value of each vessel is 200,000 francs, and the total value of the whaling squadron was then 92 millions francs; and the capital engaged in this trade 300 millions francs. With such results before them, the Americans have not hesitated to send to the south pole large vessels, expressly constructed, and which will persevere in all necessary attempts. In place of that, we send a trifling vessel, of which this excursion to the pole forms but part of a more extended expedition.

This is neither the commencement nor conclusion of this speech; but there is enough of it to show the sentiments of the orator.

We are indebted for the translation to an esteemed friend, whose productions have occasionally graced the columns of the Chronicle.

MISCELLANY.

AN ANECDOTE.—The warlike preparations which have recently met us on every hand have reminded us of an incident that occurred in Detroit during the last war, for which we are indebted to the recollections of a friend then and now resident here. It equals in imperturbable self-possession the reply of Lannes to Napoleon at the siege of Toulon. Lannes had just finished a despatch at Bonaparte's dictation, leaning on a cannon for a writing desk, when a shot from the English ships striking beside him covered his paper with earth; he coolly replied—"thank ye, gentlemen, we shall need no sand this bout." That incident made the fortune of Lannes, as Bonaparte at once placed him on his staff, but we fear our hero still languishes in obscurity.

Within the palisade of a small fort in Detroit, on what is now the corner of Woodbridge and Griswold streets, there stood in the war of 1812, a magnificent pear tree, some two feet in diameter and the pride and delight of the citizens. During one of the cannonadings from the opposite shore, it was perceived that this tree served as a mark to guide the aim of the enemy's shots, and that it continued greatly to annoy and weaken the defence. The citizens, all unwilling tho' they were, resolved to remove this means of annoyance. A soldier of the name of Miller, and now residing, we believe, somewhere in this city, was directed to cut it down. He proceeded cheerfully to his task, plied the axe with vigor, but yet made no rapid progress upon the tough old tree, when a shot from the British battery struck it precisely where he was cutting, and dashed off two thirds of the trunk. Miller paused for a moment, looked up and exclaiming, "Fire away, John Bull, you cut a great deal faster than I can," then quietly proceeded to complete his work.—*Detroit Advertiser.*

STATEMENT of Armament required for Fortifications on the Sea-board, as well for war as for present purposes;

Name of Fort.	War Armament.					Armament for present purposes.					Present supply of Cannon at Posts.					Present supply of Carriages at Posts.				
	Guns complete 18 24 32 42's.	Carronades, 18 lbs. to 100 lbs.	Howitzers, 8 1/2 inch.	Mortars.	Aggregate.	Guns, 18 24 32 42's.	Carronades 18 to 100 lbs.	Howitzers, 8 1-2 inches.	Mortars.	Aggregate.	Guns, 18 24 32 42's.	Carronades 18 to 100 lbs.	Howitzers, 8 1/2 inch.	Mortars.	Aggregate.	Guns, 18 24 32 42's.	Carronades, 18 to 100 lbs.	Howitzers, 8 1/2 inch.	Mortars.	Aggregate.
Sullivan,				1	1				1	1				1	1				1	1
Preble,	6			1	7				1	7				1	25					
Constitution,	20				20					15					28					
Independence,	60			1	61	60			1	61	68			1	69	3				3
Wolcott,	50		2	2	54															
Adams,	302	38		20	360	100	20	2	6	128	22		2	6	30	2		2	2	6
Trumbull,	22				22	12				12	21				21	14				14
Hamilton,	70	68		10	148															
La Fayette,	72				72	200	34		5	239	188				188	36				36
Columbus,	84				84															
Castle Williams,	104				104															
McHenry,	40			3	43	30		2	4	36	17		2	4	23				3	3
Severn,	7				7	4				4	4				4					
Washington,	114			6	120	40			3	43										
Monroe,	305	6		60	371	100	6		20	126	20				20	20				20
Macon,	38	8		4	50	20			2	26										
Caswell,	70	12		8	90	30	6		4	40										
Moultrie,	44		2	4	50	20		2	4	26	80		3	6	89	20		2	4	26
Castle Pinckney,	18		1	1	20	8		1	1	10	8		1	1	10	8		1	1	10
Marion,	50			1	51	20				20	5				6					
Pickens,	200	28		20	248	50	12		8	70										
Morgan,	118			10	128	30			4	34										
Wood,	48	10		6	64	20	5		3	28	4				4	4				4
Pike,	48	10		6	64	20	5		3	28	4				4	4				4
Jackson,	87			10	97															
St. Philip,	25				25	50			5	55	44		1		45	4				4
Bienvenue,	25				25	8				8										
Dupre	12				12	4				4										
	2039	180	5	174	2398	847	92	7	75	1021	537		9	21	567	115		5	11	131
In depot at the Arsenal,											2370	30	51	11		54				46
Grand Aggregate of Supplies,											2907	30	60	32		169				57

Name of Fort.	Deficiency of Cannon at Posts with reference to war arm't.					Deficiency of carriages & mortar beds with ref'nce to war arm't.					Deficiency of Cannon for present purposes.				
	Guns, 18 24 32 42's.	Carronades, 18 to 100 lbs.	Howitzers, 8 1-2 inch.	Mortars.	Aggregate.	Gun carriages, 18 24 32 42.	Carriages for carronades, 18 to 100.	Howitzers in carriages.	Mortar beds	Aggregate.	Guns, 18 24 32 42's.	Carronades 18 to 100 lbs.	Howitzer, 8 inch.	Mortar.	Aggregate.
Sullivan,															
Preble,						6			1						
Constitution,						20									
Independence,						57			1						
Wolcott,															
Adams,	330	38		16	384	350	33		20	408	78	20			98
Trumbull,	1				1	8				8					
Hamilton,															
La Fayette,	142	68		10	220	294	68		10	372	12	34		5	51
Columbus,															
Castle Williams,															
McHenry,	23				23						13				18
Severn,	3				3	7				7					
Washington,	114			6	120	114			6	120	40			3	43
Monroe,	285	6		60	351	285	6		60	351	80			20	106
Macon,	38	8		4	50	38	8		4	50	20	4		2	26
Caswell,	70	12		8	90	70	12		8	90	30	6		4	40
Moultrie,						24				24					
Castle Pinckney,	10				10	10				10					
Marion,	45				45	50			1	51	15				15
Pickens,	200	28		20	248	200	28		20	248	50	12		8	70
Morgan,	118			10	128	118			10	128	30			4	34
Wood,	44	10		6	60	44	10		6	60	16	5		3	24
Pike,	44	10		6	60	44	10		6	60	16	5		3	24
Jackson,															
St. Philip,	68			10	78	108			10	118	6			5	11
Bienvenue,	25				25	25				25	8				8
Dupre,	12				12	12				12	4				4
	1572	180		156	1,908	1,884	180		163	2,142	418	92		57	567

also of ammunition, showing the state of supplies now at the Forts, and deficiencies for war and present purposes.

Ammunition for War Armament.				Ammunition for Armament requisite for present purposes.				Present supply, at Posts, of Ammunition.			
Shot for Guns and carronades 600 per piece.	Shells for mortars and howitzers, 400 ea.	R'ds of grape and canister for guns and carronades 40 per gun.	Lbs. of Powder, 8 pounds per shot, on an average.	Shot for guns and carronades 100 per gun.	Shells 50 lb'er mortar or howitzer.	Rounds grape or canister, 15 per gun.	Powder, 8 lbs. per shot, average.	Shot for guns and carronades.	Shells for howitzers and mortars.	Rounds of grape and canister.	Rounds of Powder.
3,600	400	240	3,200	600	50	90	400	134	41	50	616
12,000	400	800	33,920	1,500	50	225	5,920	2,085	90	100	400
36,000	400	2,400	102,400	6,000	50	900	13,800	3,580		462	1,195
			310,400				55,600	6,366	50	181	880
234,000	9,600	15,600	2,073,600	12,000	400	1,800	113,600	5,586	89	60	457
13,200		880	112,640	1,200		180	11,040	5,896		45	805
238,800	4,000	15,920	2,069,600	23,400	250	3,410	216,480	603		3,241	1,014
24,000	1,200	1,600	214,400	3,000	300	450	30,000	19,613	248		969
4,200		280	35,840	400		60	3,680	256			315
68,400	2,400	4,560	602,880	4,000	150	600	58,000				655
186,600	24,000	12,440	1,984,320	10,600	1,000	1,500	105,520	80			420
27,600	1,600	1,840	248,320	2,400	100	360	22,880	6			866
49,200	3,200	3,280	445,440	3,600	200	540	34,720	1,026			
26,400	2,400	1,760	244,480	2,000	300	300	20,800	15,243	964		7,070
10,800	800	720	85,560	800	100	120	8,160	790	208		1,352
30,000	400	2,000	259,200	2,000		300	18,800	400			
136,800	8,000	9,120	1,231,360	6,200	400	930	60,240				
70,800	4,000	4,720	636,160	3,000	200	450	29,200				
34,800	2,400	2,320	316,160	2,500	150	375	24,200	383			71
34,800	2,400	2,320	316,160	2,500	150	375	24,200	372			170
67,200	4,000	4,480	605,440	5,000	250	750	48,000	10,185	557	7,056	866
15,000		1,000	128,000	800		120	7,360				
7,200		480	61,440	400		60	3,680				
1,331,400	71,600	88,760	12,133,920	93,900	4,100	13,985	896,280	72,605	2,247	11,195	18,130
								105,114	12,248	88,215	362,185
								177,719	14,495	99,410	380,315

Deficiency of Carriages for present purposes.					Deficiency of Ammunition for War armament.				Deficiency of Ammunition for present purposes.			
Carriages for 18 24 32 42's.	Carriages for carronades.	Carriages for Howitzers 8	Mortar beds	Aggregate.	Shot for guns and carronades.	Shells for howitzers and mortars	Rounds of grape and canister.	Pounds of cannon powder.	Shot for guns and carronades.	Shells for 5 inch howitzers & mortars per piece	Rounds of grape and canister for guns.	Powder, 8 pound per round.
6			1	7	1,515	359	140	2,584	1,485	9	50	5,520
15				15	8,420	310	338	33,520				12,605
57				57	29,634	350	2,219	101,205			819	54,720
98	20		4	122	228,414	9,511	15,540	2,068,586	6,414	311	1,740	113,143
					7,303		835	111,835			135	10,235
164	34		5	203	238,197	4,000	12,679	206,746	22,797	250	169	215,466
30			1	31	4,387	952	1,600	213,431		52	450	29,031
4				4	3,944		280	35,525	144		60	3,365
40			3	43	68,400	2,400	4,560	602,225	4,000	150	600	37,345
80	6		20	106	186,520	24,000	12,440	1,783,891	10,520	1,000	1,590	105,100
20	4		2	26	27,594	1,600	1,840	247,454	2,394	100	360	22,614
30	6		4	40	48,174	3,000	2,740	445,440	2,574	200	540	34,720
					11,157	1,436	1,760	237,410			300	13,730
					10,010	592	720	97,208		10	120	6,808
20			1	21	29,600		2,000	259,200	1,600		300	18,800
50	12		8	70	136,800	8,000	9,120	1,231,360	6,200	400	930	60,240
30			4	34	70,800	4,000	4,720	636,160	3,000	200	450	29,200
16	5		3	24	34,417	2,400	2,320	316,089	2,117	150	375	24,129
16	5		3	24	34,428	2,400	2,320	315,990	2,128	150	375	20,030
46			5	51	57,015	3,443		604,574				47,134
8				8	15,000		1,000	128,000	800		120	7,360
4				4	7,200		480	61,440	400		60	3,680
734	92		64	890	1,253,229	68,753	79,651	10,049,393	66,583	2,972	9,543	878,375

Of the 131 carriages, 69 are old and, it is apprehended, are very defective. Thus 62 only can be safely reported as serviceable; 50 guns at the least might be added to the present armament as necessary to the more perfect defence of the harbor of New York. No estimate having been made for the contemplated work at Throg's Neck on the East river.

The above statement is respectfully submitted by
GEO. CROGHAN,
Inspector General.

DECEMBER, 1834.

FIRE AT WEST POINT.—The following information relative to the recent fire at West Point, is derived from letters received in this city.—*Globe*.

About three o'clock this morning (19th February) we were alarmed by the cry of fire. On repairing to the scene of conflagration it was discovered to have originated in a room used for recitation and lecturing on Military and Civil Engineering. The building consists of six rooms, the three upper ones being used as the Adjutant's office, in which are preserved all the records, rolls, reports, and papers of the institution; the library, small, but consisting almost entirely of rare and choice mathematical, scientific and military volumes, and a philosophical lecture room, containing one of the most perfect and valuable collections of philosophical apparatus in the United States. It was soon discovered that the whole building would be destroyed, and the utmost endeavors of the officers of the institution, most ably seconded by the corps of Cadets, were turned towards the preservation of the library and philosophical apparatus. The greater portion of the books were saved, somewhat damaged, however, by many being thrown from a second story window, and falling in a bed of snow more than a foot deep. The philosophical apparatus, consisting, in a great measure, of large and delicate mechanical machines and models for experiments, being more difficult to transport, suffered in a greater degree than the library, but not so much as one would have reasonably expected. The instruments and models were generally carried out and placed in safety. The contents of the chemical lecture room, situated under that devoted to recitations in Natural Philosophy, were removed with greater ease and less destruction. The Adjutant's office, immediately over the engineering academy, where the fire originated, was completely destroyed with all its contents, consisting of the records of the institution since its foundation to the present time. The library, in addition to the books, maps, &c. &c. was the repository of several valuable paintings, among which may be enumerated full-length portraits of Presidents Jefferson and Monroe, with highly finished and striking likenesses of the several commandants of the Engineer Corps since the organization of that distinguished body, all of which were fortunately preserved.

It is most deeply to be regretted that the building destined to contain such valuable collections of books, maps, philosophical and other apparatus, should not have originally been built proof against fire; their dangerous situation has frequently been pointed out and referred to by the several Boards of Visitors annually sitting for the purpose of thoroughly investigating this important branch of our army, and a fire-proof building recommended in the strongest terms. The necessity of such a building must be apparent to all, and it is to be hoped that measures will immediately be taken to place this valuable collection beyond the possibility hereafter of accident from fire.

Lieut. FOWLER, who was in command of the company of artillery, and to whom the preservation of Lieut. Powell's command, in their recent brush with the Indians, is attributed—as made known in the article given to-day from Florida—is a citizen of our town, and we feel some pride in the laurels he has

won. He is quite a young officer, having only graduated at West Point in June last. During his abode there he obtained for himself a high merit in his class; and should he be preserved to his country and his friends, we doubt not he will prove an honor to the honorable and chivalrous, though hazardous profession he has chosen for himself.

He is descended from one whose gallantry was well and fully evinced at North Point in 1814, when the city of Baltimore was threatened with invasion by the British army. We allude to Colonel Benjamin Fowler, at that time a citizen of Baltimore, but for the last twenty years, a resident here. Our good wishes are with this young and chivalrous officer, and we trust that, while it is his lot to preserve others from the murderous knife of the savage, he may also be preserved, and escape, unscathed, their knife, tomahawk, or rifle, as well as the deadly influence of the southern climate to which he is now exposed.—*Georgetown, D. C. Potomac Advocate*.

COMMERCIAL.—Capt. Samuel Upton, of the brig *Deborah*, of Salem, recently arrived at this port, communicates the following article for publication. It was handed him by his consignee at Cayenne, with a request that it be published for the benefit of American vessels trading to that Colony; and Capt. U. adds his testimony to the kind treatment of our citizens there, they being put upon the same footing as Frenchmen, and neither tonnage nor light money exacted.—*Norfolk Herald*.

"On the 5th December the brig *John and Edward* of Portland, Capt. Waterhouse, sailed for Surinam. Not being on the spring tide, and through the neglect of the pilot, the vessel grounded on the mud banks to the leeward of the Channel. After several attempts to get her off, which did not succeed, on the contrary the vessel being thrown farther on the bank by the wind and sea, it became dangerous for the vessel to lay there any longer. As soon as this was made known to the Ordonateur, Mons'r. Guimet, he asked of the Governor, Mons'r. Ducamper, to send the Government steamboat to get the brig off, and immediately the order was given. After remaining a day and night, the steamer had to come in without having succeeded, but returned the day after, and finally got the brig off. The conduct of the Governor, Ordonateur, and of Captain DeBurn, of the steamer, deserve our warmest thanks."

SAILORS SNUG HARBOR.—The grounds from 6th to 10th street, west of the Bowery to the 5th Avenue, now embracing Waverley Place on the North side of Washington square, 8th, 9th and 10th streets, Broadway, Mercer and Wooster streets, which are nearly covered with costly and splendid buildings, was all a hilly, sandy field, owned by Capt. David Randall, who called it then the "*Sailors Snug Harbor*,"—was worth, probably, in 1807, not over ten thousand dollars. This property was left by Capt. Randall for the benefit of aged and worn out seamen, who were to find a home for life. The property is now leased out, and yields a revenue of not much short of 50 thousand dollars, and which in a few years will be trebled, if not quadrupled. Out of this fund a large, spacious, and in fact elegant, building has been erected on Staten Island, where, under the immediate management of Captain John Whitten, one of Neptune's noblest sons, some fifty or more superannuated masters, mates and seamen, have found a comfortable home for the remainder of their days. This is probably one of the most useful bequests that has ever been made by man. In a very few years the funds will be sufficient to afford a home for every worn out and disabled seaman in this country. The charity is more valuable, as it has no respect to persons. There is a singular anecdote connected with this charity, that deserves to be mentioned here: it is said Captain Randall, who was a bachelor, and one of the most

amiable and best of men, was of a hasty disposition. While lying in the harbor of Havana he struck one of his men with a stick, which caused his death;—the circumstances preyed upon his mind ever after, and as a reparation he determined to give all his property to some charity. Providentially he selected and planned such a charity as we have described. Distant heirs, and among the principal Bishop Ingles, of Halifax, have endeavored to set aside the will and to appropriate the property to their own use,—but after a vexatious litigation, our highest tribunals have declared its validity.—*N. Y. Express.*

THE ARMY—THE MILITIA—AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST.—We have again and again borne our testimony to the importance of placing our regular military force upon such a footing as to render it a little more commensurate with the wants, the power, the extent, and the dangers of the country.

We have, too, expressed, with the utmost freedom, our conviction, that of all forces that can be employed, except at home, and behind breastworks, and for an emergency, militia and volunteer corps are the most extravagant, and the least desirable.

Hence our conclusion is, as it has long been, that the public interest and the national character both require that our army should be increased, and that the use of militia and volunteers, except under the circumstances above indicated, be dispensed with.

In confirmation of these opinions, we ask attention to the annexed communication, and to the extract which follows it from the last Army and Navy Chronicle:

For the New York American.

I take the liberty of sending you an extract from a letter I have just received from an officer in Florida, with a request that the same be published. It has reference to the battle lately fought between the Indians and the troops under Col. Taylor; and is from a source entitled to the highest credit. The same account is given of the killed and wounded as is contained in the official report of Col. Taylor; after which the writer thus proceeds:

"Col. Gentry, commanding the Missouri volunteers, was mortally wounded, and died on the night after the battle. The citizen soldiery, the bulwark of our country, behaved on this occasion with the greatest activity—flying beyond the reach of the enemy in the swiftest manner. Poor Gentry, who was a brave man, tried in vain to rally them before he was shot down. He told Col. Taylor that his men had deserted him, and he had been sacrificed. Not enough to carry him off the field remained around him; and he applied to the 6th Regiment of Infantry for some men to carry him off."

The facts here related, painful as they must be to the feelings of every American, are but a few more added to the long train of disasters which have been brought upon us by the mistaken policy of the Government and people. How long is this foolish reliance upon militia and volunteers to continue? How long must we continue to waste the treasures of the nation, and to sacrifice the lives of our citizens in Florida, for fear that a regular army of fifteen thousand may destroy the liberties of fifteen millions of people? How long must we remain incapable of protecting our citizens, of preserving internal tranquillity, and of fulfilling our obligations to other nations, because we love to talk about the courage and patriotism of our citizen soldiers? Let us hope that the time has now arrived for the Government to profit by the experience of the past; and while due credit is given to the citizen for his courage and patriotism, let us hope, for the honor of our country, that the Government will place its reliance upon the soldier, as it would upon the sailor, mechanic, or merchant, only in proportion to his experience in his calling.—*New York American.*

MILITIA AFFAIRS.

The Adjutant General makes the following report of the number of militia in this State:

Horse Artillery,	1,398
Cavalry,	7,191
Artillery,	9,361
Infantry, (including Light Infantry and Riflemen,)	164,034
Companies of Artillery, &c., attached permanently or for inspection,	2,910
Total,	184,892

being a decrease of 9,718 from the number reported last year. More than half the decrease occurs in this city; and the remainder falls on the other cities and populous villages of the State. The apparent diminution is accounted for by the removing of large numbers of persons, for want of employment, from the large towns into the country, where they have not yet been enrolled.—*New York Express.*

From the Albany Evening Journal.

MILITARY.—In pursuance of General Orders, issued by the commander in chief, through Adjutant General Macdonald, a Court Martial convened in this city on the 21st of November last. It was composed of the following officers: Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, Jr., of the Infantry, President; Brigadier General John Taylor Cooper, Brigadier General Henry J. Genet, Brigadier General Leonard G. Ten Eyck, Major General Abraham Schuyler, Brigadier General James McCabe, Colonel Peter Seaton Henry, Colonel Peter V. Shankland, Lieut. Col. John B. Van Schaick; Colonel Julius Rhoads, Judge Advocate.

The officer tried was Brigadier General Arthur, and the Court settled the principle, that *an officer cannot evade responsibility to a Court Martial by a removal from the State*, or plead, as a consequence of such removal, to the jurisdiction of the court summoned to try him. This decision was justified by a written opinion of the Judge Advocate. We understand that under our State Militia Law, this question has never before been adjudicated.

Another important point has been settled by this Court, to wit, that in the voluntary absence of the accused, a Court Martial, under our State Law, can go on and try him as if present.

The following Order was issued from the Adjutant General's Office, in December last, and we copy it as a document of some importance to our military readers throughout the State:

STATE OF NEW YORK.

HEAD QUARTERS, ALBANY, }
December 20, 1837. }

GENERAL ORDERS.

The commander in chief has carefully examined the proceedings of the Court Martial at which Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, Jr., of the 9th Division of Infantry, is President, held at Albany on the 21st of November last, and several subsequent days, pursuant to General Orders of October 21st, 1837, for the trial of Brigadier General John A. Arthur, of the 2d Brigade of Artillery, on charges of unofficerlike, ungentlemanly, disgraceful, and disrespectful conduct.

The said charges founded upon a letter written and addressed by the said Brigadier General in the 10th Brigade of Artillery, endorsed "Military," and containing the following language: "Suffer me to advise you to adhere to your own interest, and elect our mutual friend Col. Henry Pine, to the command of the 10th brigade. You can do it by management. Adhere together, and bribe one of Nivens' Dutchmen, the day is yours. Yours, &c. J. A. Arthur;" thereby interfering in the election of a Brigadier General of the said 10th Brigade of Artillery; recommending management and bribery to effect the object of such interference; proposing to an officer

of the said 10th brigade to use management and bribery in an election then pending; and intimating that the Lieutenant Colonel or Major of the 10th Regiment in said 10th Brigade, might or could be bribed.

The accused, Brigadier General John A. Arthur, did not appear in court, though it was clearly shown that the requisitions of section 6, of title 6, of chapter 10, of part first, of the Revised Statutes, has been fully complied with.

It also appeared in evidence that the accused continued to act as the commandant of the said 2d Brigade of Artillery, until the period of the service upon him of a copy of the charges and specifications, and a list of the names of the officers detailed to form the court, pursuant to the section of the act above cited, together with the order of arrest.

There does not appear to be any authority in the Militia Laws of this State, to compel the attendance of an accused person before a Court Martial, and unless such courts have the power of proceeding to try and sentence persons who may refuse to appear before them, the highest military offences may pass unpunished, or be left to the tardy, and, in many cases, inadequate punishment of a mere removal of the offender from office by the Senate, on the recommendation of the Governor. Our Military Laws declaring offences, prescribing penalties, and the mode of punishment by Courts Martial, would, in such case, be wholly nugatory.

But in the absence of express authority, the power of Courts Martial to try delinquents, though not present in court, seems to be distinctly recognised by the 11th section, (§12 of 2d Ed. Rev. Stat.) of article 1, of title 7, of the chapter above cited, which article prescribed the penalties and fines for a violation of the provisions of the Militia Law. The section is construed to apply to all the offences for which penalties are prescribed in the same article.

Besides this, regimental Courts Martial, which have the power to impose all the fines prescribed in the article last above cited, upon commissioned officers of companies as well as privates, have always proceeded to impose such fine, whether the delinquent was present in court or not. Section 25, of title 6, of the chapter before cited, fully recognises such proceedings, by allowing delinquents, not personally summoned to appear before such court, and who did not appear, ten days after personal notice of a sentence, in which to appeal to the officer instituting the court of his successor in command.

The Court Martial proceeded to the trial of Brigadier General John A. Arthur, on the above mentioned charges, and, having found him guilty of each of the same, do sentence him to be cashiered.

The Commander-in-Chief approves of the sentence, and directs that it be carried into effect.

The Court Martial, of which Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, Jr., is President, is hereby dissolved.

By order of Commander-in-Chief:

ALLAN MACDONALD, *Adjutant Gen.*

STATE OF MICHIGAN—No. 28,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }

February 10, 1838. }

Report of the Committee on the Militia.

The committee on the Militia, to whom was referred that portion of the message of the Executive which relates to the militia, beg leave to report:

That they have carefully examined the subject in all its bearings, and have determined to recommend such a law as shall embrace the following points:

1. A complete organization and enrolment of the militia.

2. The promotion of officers agreeably to well ascertained military merit, at the same time that the ordinary rules of promotion in succession are observed to a certain extent.

3. An efficient system of instruction, by annual encampment of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and musicians, under direction of a competent instructor.

4. An exemption from parades, drills, and trainings to the great body of the militia, on the payment of a moderate exemption tax; which tax is so graduated as to meet the entire expenses of the system.

5. Safe, convenient, and economical depots for arms, munitions, camp equipage, and all military stores belonging to the State.

6. The requisite regulations for a prompt levy of the militia *en masse*, in case of invasion or insurrection, and for drafting, in case of a call on a portion of the militia for active service.

7. A proper responsibility, on the part of officers of the militia, as such, entrusted with the disbursement of the funds of the State.

8. A system of courts martial, together with a specification of the mode of levying and collecting fines and militia taxes.

As the bill to be considered is to take its place in the revised statutes of the State, in case it should become a law, it has been arranged into title and chapters, in conformity with the arrangement of those statutes.

The subject is one of much difficulty, and the committee are aware of the imperfect character of the bill, which I have the honor to offer, in the confidence that the wisdom of the House will, by the necessary amendments and additions to it, be able to create a perfect system of public defence.

HENRY SMITH, *Chairman.*

From the N. Y. Mercantile Advertiser.

LIFE BOAT.—We were yesterday invited to examine an improved hydrogen life boat, invented and built by Mr. Joseph Francis, of this city, for Capt. N. H. Holdredge, of the Liverpool packet ship *United States*. The boat is 28 feet long and 5½ feet beam, is of the best material, clinker built, and copper fastened throughout, and has a double ceiling—within the boat are 14 tubs 13 feet long, placed from the keel to the gunwale, 52 cubic feet of hydrogen gas, which will buoy up 4,000 lbs. of iron while the boat is filled with water. To the sides are attached 20 life boats, which, with the boat, are capable of giving support to 160 persons in case of necessity. In the bottom of the boat is a plug hole through which the water escapes as fast as six men can bail it into the vessel; and the experiments tried have convinced those who have examined her, that it is the best invention for the preservation of life, in case of shipwreck, that has ever been offered to the merchants and masters of vessels for their patronage and support.

Captain Pennoyer, of the packet *Neptune*, had two boats similarly constructed, which he took to Charleston, and so well convinced were the proprietors of the Wilmington and Charleston line of steam packets of their utility, that they would take no denial from Captain P., but gave him his own price for them. Captain Henry Holdredge, of the Liverpool packet *George Washington*, which sailed hence the 8th inst. for Liverpool, has taken one of the boats with him, and will, on his voyage, make experiments of its utility as occasion offers. The insurance companies of Philadelphia were satisfied of their qualities, and ordered three boats, as have, also, the insurance offices of Charleston, by an agent sent to this city for the purpose of examining them.

The utility of these boats is of immense importance to our mariners in saving lives and property in case of shipwreck at sea, or on our coast; and when once known, they will impart that confidence to the wreckers, which is so essential in rescuing the unfortunate sufferers in gales of wind, when attempts in ordinary boats are almost certain destruction.

WASHINGTON CITY ;
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1838.

The Globe of the 5th inst. contains an article copied from the New York Journal of Commerce, in which it is stated that Major Wm. H. Morrell, who is said to have signed his name to a communication relative to the late unfortunate duel, in this city, is an officer of the army.

Viewing that production as neither creditable nor honorable to the parties concerned, but rather as an outrage upon society, and disgraceful to humanity, I have to request that you will correct the mistake, by stating in your paper that there is no such individual as Major Wm. H. Morrell in the army of the United States.

B.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1837.

OUR MEANS OF DEFENCE.—In our columns to-day will be found a most important document—one that has never seen the light before. It is a table, prepared with great care by Col. CROGHAN, one of the Inspectors General of the army, at the time a rupture with France was anticipated, and exhibited to the President of the United States, by whom and a few others only has it been seen.

From actual observation in the discharge of his duties, Col. CROGHAN was aware of the imperfect and almost defenceless state of our fortifications, and he no doubt felt it in some measure incumbent upon him, although not strictly in the line of his duty, to place the nakedness of our situation before the authorities in a tangible form. It is said that facts are stubborn things; but judging from past observation, it requires something more than facts to convince men there can be any real danger if there is no foe in sight. When a house is burnt, it is too late to effect insurance; and when a man is killed, it is needless to resort to measures which, if taken in time, might have saved his life. As with individuals, so with communities and with nations, procrastination is often our worst enemy. Forgetting the counsels of prudence, and the admonitions of experience, preparations for defence and protection are postponed until resistance is almost vain—the enemy is at our doors—our shipping is burnt—our towns sacked—and our property destroyed.

We were happily relieved from a resort to arms at the time referred to; but the naked condition of our fortresses should be a warning to us to be prepared for the worst, and the sooner we are thus prepared, the better for the country.

It is believed that this tabular statement was the foundation upon which was reported two or three years ago the bill that passed the House, but was rejected by the Senate, placing three millions of dollars at the disposal of the Executive for putting the country in a posture of defence. Since the date of this statement, (Dec. 1834,) between 12 and 1,300 carriages for battery guns have been completed; more than 400 of which have been sent to the fortresses, and the remainder are at the arsenals, ready for delivery.

BRASS CANNON.—We noticed some time since a brass cannon, placed in front of the War Department, as a sample of those which are manufactured at the Cabotville Works, by Ames & Co., of Cabotville, Mass.; it was highly approved of by several officers of the Army and Navy.

The manufacture of brass ordnance has not been successful until recently, owing to the difficulty of procuring sound metal. This difficulty has been obviated by the Messrs. Ames, whose cannon have stood the severest tests; and we hope their foundry will be constantly employed by the Government, as we believe that brass cannon, when manufactured from proper material, is superior to any other for various purposes, and that a large supply for the service is required.

The swords, cutlasses, dirks, etc., manufactured at the same works, are said to be of very superior quality, and warranted fully equal to foreign manufacture.

We should like to see the navy provided with a full supply of articles of American manufacture.

From the Canada frontier we still receive contradictory statements; but all agree that the insurrection is by no means quelled. Gen. SCOTT has proceeded to Detroit by express, it having been reported that a large body of armed men had crossed over to Malden, and even that a bloody engagement had taken place.

Two State arsenals in New York, one at Batavia and the other at Elizabethtown, Essex county, have been forcibly broken open and plundered. Gov. MARCY has offered rewards for the detection and conviction of the offenders.

Gen. WOOL has called out all the disposable militia force of Clinton county, to prevent the conveyance of arms and munitions of war to Canada.

Extract of a letter, dated TALLAHASSEE, Florida, Feb. 14, 1838.

"We have been troubled by the Indians in this vicinity; a few buildings have been destroyed, and fears were entertained that they would commit more depredations; but the efficient force of marines, under Lieut. Waldron, so promptly ordered into the interior by Commodore Dallas, has relieved us from all fear and anxiety on this subject.

"It is reported that an attack has been made on the house of a Mr. Johnson, 20 miles east of this, and Lieut. Waldron has gone in pursuit with the force under his command."

The bill for increasing the army "drags its slow length along" in the House; but there is some hope that it may be taken up for discussion, in the fact that the session has not, in all probability, more than half expired.

If the present condition of our affairs, on every side, does not arouse the dormant faculties of all parties in Congress, nothing short of an actual invasion can convince them of our weakness, and of the entire inadequacy of our present regular military force.

EXCHANGE PAPERS.—The mails are very irregular at this season, and must continue so until the navigation is opened and the roads become passable. We cannot, however, account for the delay and irregularity attending the receipt of some papers. The Norfolk papers are a week or more on the way. The Pensacola Gazette comes about once a month, and the Natches Journal we have not seen this year.

N. B. As there is another paper now published in this city, called the *Washington Chronicle*, we would request those with whom we exchange, to be particular in addressing the *Army and Navy Chronicle*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—C., on Naval Gunnery, is received, but unavoidably postponed until next week.

Although bearing post marks of different dates, three communications from M. N. K., on Naval Architecture, Nos. 4, 5, and 6, were received on the same day, and on the succeeding day No. 7. They shall appear in order. The communications to which he refers will be very acceptable.

ITEMS.

The Indian prisoners who have for some time past been in confinement at Fort Moultrie, left Charleston on Friday, 16th ult., for New Orleans, on their way to the far west, in the brig Homer, Capt. Nabb. The Chiefs were embarked on Thursday morning. Lieut. Reynolds, of the U. S. Marines, will have them in charge.

The U. S. steamer Poinsett, Captain TRATHEN, arrived at Charleston, on Saturday, 24th ult., from Baltimore, with U. S. troops, under command of Lieut. Miller. The Poinsett touched at Old Point, Va., Beaufort, N. C., and Georgetown, S. C., and left again for Garey's Ferry, (Fa.) on Monday.

The brig General Pinckney, Ford, four days from Charleston, bound to Baltimore, anchored below Norfolk on Thursday, 15th ult. Passengers—Midshipman McArthur, of the navy, and 10 seamen lately attached to Lieutenant Powell's command in Florida.

"The Homeward Bound," is the title of a new novel from the pen of Mr. Cooper, now in the press of Messrs. Carey, Lea & Blanchard, of Philadelphia.

Forty Seminole Indians, under a U. S. guard, commanded by Lieut. Chapman, arrived at New Orleans on the 29th January, in the brig Calvin, from Tampa Bay.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

Feb. 26—Lieut. J. T. Sprague, 5th Infy.	Fuller's.
23—Lieut. C. S. Howe, 4th Infy.	Brown's.
Lieut. T. B. Linnard, 2d Arty.	Fuller's.
Col. E. Cutler, 4th Infy.	do.

LETTERS ADVERTISED.

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1838.

ARMY.—Col. A. Cummings, Lieut. J. F. Lee, Captain H. Morris, Lieut. J. T. Sprague, Major, G. Saunders, Capt. W. W. Tompkins, Lieut. H. S. Turner.

NAVY.—Lieut. Joel Abbot, Commo. James Barron, M. G. L. Claiborne, Com'r. S. W. Downing, Mid. J. B. Randolph, Com. J. Renshaw, B. F. Sands, Lieut. C. K. Stribling, Com. C. Stewart, Capt. T. H. Stevens, Lt. Com't. J. Tattnall 2, Com'r. R. Voorhees, W. M. Walker.

MARINE CORPS.—Lt. Col. Freeman, Lt. Francis C. Hall.

NORFOLK, March 1, 1838.

NAVY.—Com. G. C. Read, Com. C. Stewart, Command'r T. T. Webb, Capt. J. Harris, M. Corps, Lieuts. S. C. Rowan, L. N. Carter, H. N. Page, Joel Abbot, A. H. Kilty, A. S. Worth, John W. Cox; Drs. J. S. Messersmith, Haslett, Wm. Johnson, (for Mrs.) Peete; Purser S. P. Todd; Midshipmen G. W. Hamersley, Sinkler, Weed, J. G. Guthrie, W. R. Gardner, J. W. Bryce, G. R. Gray.

COMMUNICATIONS.

BATTLE OF THE OKEE-CHOBEE—THE ARMY.

Of the many important duties that necessarily fall upon the commanding officers of mixed troops serving in the field, there is none more difficult in the performance, or more dangerous in its results, than making an official report of an engagement with the enemy; more particularly when the mixed troops are composed of regulars and militia, associated together in the attack of an Indian camp, during which a portion of the command has shown a decided preference to the post of safety, rather than the path of honor.

It would naturally be supposed that when a battle had been fought and won, the greatest danger had been overcome, and that honor and promotion would follow in rapid succession the official report of the engagement. He who thus calculates will find himself much mistaken. During the battle, his life only is in danger; but in making a faithful and impartial report of its results, giving praise and credit to the brave and daring, stating the plain, unvarnished truth of those who have forgotten their duty, or been backward in the performance of it, that which is of far more importance to the soldier and man of honor—his reputation—is endangered. Happy is he who can steer clear of this difficulty; but thrice happy is he who finds himself, after a well-contested battle, bound by an inherent love of truth and justice to award praise and honor to all. The latter occurrence, unfortunately, is never destined to fall to the lot of a General or commanding officer in our army; he must, therefore, be prepared to meet the hidden and secret attacks of those who have not possessed the courage to face boldly and openly the enemies of their common country.

An army is sent into the field, composed of regulars and militia; the latter called out on an emergency; undisciplined; without confidence in each other, or in their commanders; unacquainted with their duties; devoid of responsibility, and looking upon the campaign as a frolic, which is to end in three, or, at the farthest, six months; the whole placed under the command of a regular officer, who, accustomed from youth to a strict discipline, and a rigid observance of the orders of his superiors, requires from those placed under his command a like regard to his will and directions. After overcoming difficulties, at first sight apparently insurmountable to the eye of the unpractised observer, he succeeds in putting his command in motion; and when his men are worn down with excessive labor in the construction of roads, bridges, and all the avenues of communication requisite in an Indian campaign, he arrives within striking distance of the enemy. Should he find himself at this point without having discovered a lamentable want of provisions, he may consider himself as extremely fortunate, and look upon this occurrence as ominous of success. The enemy he finds prepared for battle, posted in a thick-set hammock, barely penetrable, protected on all sides by a deep and almost impassable swamp, every point of which is swept by the deadly fire of the concealed savage. If there is a position in the world in which militia can be of no service, this is the identical one; death stares them in the face if they advance; no friendly tree, parapet of earth, or shelter of cotton bags, is here to protect them; they are no longer performing their appropriate duties; from the defensive, they are required to act on the offensive, and must now perform that, which, in any country in the world, save ours, would be assigned exclusively to regular and disciplined troops. The General at a glance sees the difficulties surrounding him, and acts accordingly. Place the regulars in the front, and his whole command is endangered; for he is not satisfied that the militia will second their praiseworthy endeavors, unless he has never heard

of the Withlacoochee and Wahoo swamps. Reverse their positions, and give the post of honor to the militia; the history of our country, from the commencement of the Revolution to the 25th of last December, will tell him that they cannot hold such a position after their muskets have once been discharged. Under these difficulties, he at length succeeds in forming his line of battle, no matter how; the result is the same, as far, at least, as regards victory; the hammock is charged; the enemy routed and driven in all directions; the stragglers begin to collect together and claim a participation in the honors and rewards attendant upon victory. Surrounded by the dead and dying, the General prepares to make his official report; all the feelings and sympathies that become a man are brought into action; his heart opens to the brave, his lip curls with scorn and disdain at the lagging and cowardly; his pen executes that which his heart dictates; but like the truly brave and honorable man, before condemning, he weighs well the circumstance under which those deserving condemnation have been required to fight the battles of their country; and the curling lip of scorn gives way to a feeling of pity. Here commences the real danger; tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and who can anticipate the results; gloss over the affair, and think of Clinch and the Withlacoochee. In such a position was Col. Taylor placed at the close of the battle on the 25th December; and yet even the report of that battle, coming from one so universally respected for his moral worth, coupled with undaunted courage displayed on many a field of battle, could not screen the writer from the charge of having "censured, when applause, and not censure, was due."

Taking advantage of the experience gained at the battle of the Withlacoochee, where the militia and volunteers were posted in the rear, and were *not permitted* to cross the river to come to the support of the regulars, rapidly decreasing in number by the deadly fire of the Indians, Col. Taylor, with consummate judgment, placed his volunteers and spies in the first line; well aware, however, of the dependence to be placed in the very best of such description of troops, (and we believe the Missouri volunteers to be worthy to be ranked with this class,) they were directed, in case of being hard pushed, to fall back in rear of the regulars. Had they done so, all would have been right, and Col. Taylor would, doubtless, have given them a full share of the credit due to those who so nobly fought and bled on that day. Instead of falling back, however, in rear of the regulars, as directed, they "retired across the swamp to their baggage and horses, nor could they again be brought into action as a body." For this plain statement of facts, which Colonel Taylor was bound, in justice to those who had so bravely deported themselves, to make, an honorable Senator from Missouri has thought proper to call for the official report of this engagement, and has found fault with the commanding officer for committing what he has been pleased to call "an error, in expecting from volunteers the steadiness and discipline of regulars!!" The idea is preposterous. The very order of Col. Taylor to the volunteers, directing them to fall back in rear of the regulars, and holding the 1st infantry in reserve, proves that he mistrusted the steadiness of the former, and anticipated that they would fall back; the body behind which they were to rally was accordingly pointed out to them. His official report is still more conclusive on this point; for, after having related the manner in which the volunteers had performed their allotted duties in the engagement, refusing, as a body, to return to the fight, he yet concludes by stating that "they behaved as well, or even better, than troops of this description generally do." If fault is found, it is with the nature and constitution of this description of

troops in general, and not with the courage or bearing of the individual members of the Missouri volunteers; and in the correctness of this opinion, Col. Taylor will find ample proof in the united testimony of every general officer in the service, from the days of Washington to the present moment. If these volunteers were not intended to fight, why were they sent to Florida? Why was it not discovered before they were ordered to be mustered into the service of the United States, that they were "fathers of families, and sons of farmers," and had not been disciplined for Indian warfare? when in the presence of an enemy, is no time to make this alarming discovery! If Col. Taylor has committed an error in expecting from the volunteers the steadiness and discipline of regulars, the honorable Senator has committed one of a far more serious nature; for it is coupled with injustice to the 6th regiment of infantry, when he awarded to the Missouri volunteers the position of number one on the roll of merit, founded upon the fact of the volunteers having a greater number killed and wounded in a less time than any of the regiments engaged. The able commander, in the absence of "words capable of expressing his admiration of the gallantry and steadiness of the officers and soldiers of the 6th infantry," refers to the killed and wounded as the most conclusive evidence of their merit; and adds, as if in justification of the formation of his opinions thus founded, that, "after every officer and orderly sergeant of several companies engaged had been shot down, the men still moved forward," and never, for a moment faltered, (excepting, as it observed *en passant*, when a few of them took charge of the commander of the volunteers, mortally wounded in his endeavors to rally his flying troops, and carried him off the field.)

The number of killed and wounded in the several regiments engaged, may sometimes be considered a fair test of the bravery displayed in battle; but before assuming this as the true standard of courage, we would recommend the honorable Senator, and all others of a like opinion, to a careful perusal of Major General Jesup's official report of the affair of the 20th January, in which he says: "*Some confusion occurred among the Tennessee volunteers, in consequence of which they suffered severely; but order was readily restored.*" This, coming from the source it does, may be worthy of some consideration, especially when it is advanced as the general belief that this officer has entertained a higher opinion of the efficiency of the militia in the field, than any officer in the regular service. It proves at least, conclusively, that the number of killed and wounded is not always the true standard of courage. Might not the loss of life in the Missouri volunteers have been caused by a like confusion? We do not mean to doubt the bravery and devotion of these volunteers; we believe them to rank with the best of such a description of troops; but we must be permitted to express our opinion, that "fathers of families, and sons of farmers," should not be sent to Florida, unless it is intended that they shall share, equally with the regulars, the toils, the difficulties, and dangers of an Indian campaign; and that it would be more in accordance with truth and justice to refrain from attacking the report of Col. Taylor, when that officer has done nothing more than related those facts which an imperative duty required of him.

Those who permit our army to be so constituted as to render necessary the association of regulars with militia, in the protection of our citizens from the savage Indian, have committed the real error; the awful responsibility rests upon their shoulders; the blood that has flowed so freely is to be charged to their accounts; and until the army is increased, and so organized as to render unnecessary the constant and daily calls upon the militia, we shall never expect to see the day when the frontier citizens of

our country can lie down in peace, disregardful and fearless of the war whoop and scalping knife of the ruthless red man.

The present state of affairs cannot exist much longer; the army is becoming daily more dissatisfied, and justly so; and if some hope of receiving justice from the hands of Congress is not shortly held out to them, the country will find, when, perhaps, too late, that it must look elsewhere for the courage, energy, and devotion, heretofore so repeatedly displayed in contending against a foe, whose defeat brings with it neither honor nor reward, and not even

SHEER JUSTICE.

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE—No. 4.

We are now to enter upon the consideration of the ships of the United States navy, and in doing so, we take occasion to say that our opinions are honestly entertained, and shall be as honestly expressed. Since our last communication was penned, the speech of the Hon. Mr. Mallory, in the House of Representatives, and the Army and Navy Chronicle of the 4th January, have been received. In the Chronicle we find an article upon the line-of-battle ship Ohio, by a member of the Naval Lyceum, in which our own sentiments are fully sustained; and in the speech, additional evidence is to be found, strengthening our deliberate convictions, and boldly expressed before the assembled representatives of our republic.

It is not our purpose to make any remarks upon the faults and abuses which have for several years past existed in the administration of our naval affairs. Suffice it here to say, that our navy has been grievously neglected, and its best interests strenuously opposed by the very men who, of all others, should have encouraged and fostered it as the right arm of our country's defence. Before the world we have stood unrivalled in the construction of our ships of war; and whether regarded as the fleetest, strongest, or most effective in battle, we were pre-eminently successful. How stands the picture now? The answer is indeed humiliating; but it must be admitted, that in all the great essentials constituting a perfect ship, we are decidedly inferior to both England and France. Instead of progressing towards the ultimatum of improvement, or even keeping pace with the advancement of the art in other countries, we have as steadily retrograded from our once proud eminence in naval architecture. It would be a matter of enquiry deeply interesting to the people of the United States, and not less so to naval officers, to ascertain the *causes* of so strange an influence as that which has operated in arresting the progress of our naval superiority. If narrow views and selfish egotism have not had their full share in producing these lamentable results, then are we only very greatly mistaken.

By the Navy Register we find that there are seven line-of-battle ships afloat. These are the Franklin, Washington, Columbus, Ohio, North Carolina, Delaware, and the great Pennsylvania. Three of these were built at Philadelphia, viz: the first, fifth, and seventh; one at Portsmouth, N. H.; one at Washington; one at New-York; and one at Gosport, Va. There remain upon the stocks four; the Alabama, at Portsmouth, the New York, at Norfolk, and the Vermont and Virginia, at Boston. These ships, the Alabama excepted, have, at different times, been carefully examined by the writer as to their model. Some of them having been at sea, an opportunity has been thus afforded of testing their properties, which, in the main, have proved satisfactory. What these properties should be, in ships of every class, will be mentioned hereafter; and it will not be remarkable if, under conflicting opinions, some of these noble vessels have exhibited great defects.

In every essential quality, experimentally tested, and in conformity to correct principles, the Frank-

lin, Ohio, and North Carolina, may be considered unrivalled ships; and, except that they have not been proved, the Vermont, Virginia, and New York, are entitled to our unqualified admiration. The Washington, Columbus, and Delaware, have all the same fault in construction: they are *too full in the after body*, and in consequence, they require a large helm; are difficult to steer, and are not so fast as they might have been. The colossal Pennsylvania is beautifully moulded, and promises every thing from appearances, and we sincerely trust that expectations, as to her qualities, may be fully realized.

Upon the whole, then, we consider our line-of-battle ships as superior to these of any other nation; and as a combination of structures by different men, they present a greater uniformity than can be met with in the same number of ships of any naval power. As a model worthy of preservation, and after which our future eighty-gun ships should be exactly built, the Ohio has no superior. It is much to be regretted, that in docking her at Boston, she should have been subjected to so severe a strain. Whether the mistake committed on that occasion was the result of design or ignorance, may never be clearly made to appear; in either case it is deserving of unqualified censure. We doubt whether any one can be found who officiated upon the above mentioned occasion, that will be ready to "assume the responsibility."

The Independence, as a line-of-battle ship, had one serious defect: she carried her lower tier of guns too near the water, and, consequently, could not have fought them in a sea way, nor, indeed, in a fresh breeze on the lee side. Her displacement was erroneously calculated, and hence the defect spoken of. As a frigate, she is as fine a ship as any in our service, though we think, too heavily sparred.

M. N. K.

[To be continued.]

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a report from the Secretary of War, specifying the contracts of the Department for the present year; ordered to be printed.

The bill making appropriation for the completion of certain military roads in Arkansas, was read a third time and passed.

The bill appointing commissioners to settle claims to reservations under the Choctaw treaty, came up with amendments, which amendments were adopted, and the bill passed.

MONDAY, FEB. 19.

The VICE PRESIDENT communicated to the Senate a report from the Secretary of War, in relation to the construction of a harbor at City West, Indiana, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. BEXTON presented the petition of the clerks of the Bureaus of the War Department, praying augmentation of their salaries: referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. LYON,

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be instructed to communicate to the Senate a copy of the report and map of the survey made by Lieutenant Poole, of the United States Army, under direction of the Quartermaster's Department, of a Military road from Saginaw to Mackinaw in the State of Michigan.

TUESDAY, FEB. 20.

Mr. BUCHANAN presented the petition of several captains, pilots, and others, engaged in the navigation of the Mississippi, Ohio, and Monongahela rivers, presenting strong reasons why Pittsburgh ought to be the site of a marine hospital: ordered to be printed, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. BUCHANAN, also, presented a memorial, signed by a number of the citizens of Pittsburgh, having the same object in view, and similar to those, on the same subject, presented by him some days since: ordered to be printed, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. BUCHANAN, also, presented the petition of sundry citizens of Pennsylvania: asking for an appropriation for the completion of the frigate *Raritan*: referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. TIPTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom the subject had been referred, reported a bill to establish a foundry and armory in the West, and arsenals and depots for arms in the several States and Territories in which none are established; read and ordered to a second reading, and the accompanying report ordered to be printed.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a report of the Secretary of War, relative to the construction of a fort on the northern frontier of Arkansas:

Also, communicating Col. Taylor's official report of the late engagement with the Seminole Indians:

Also, communicating the number of troops, allies, &c. which has been employed in the Florida war; severally ordered to be printed.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22.

Mr. LINN, on leave, and in pursuance of previous notice, introduced a bill to purchase the right to use in the Army and Navy of the United States, the vapor bath of Doctor Boyd Reilly; which was read twice and referred to a select committee, consisting of five members, to be appointed by the Chair.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23.

Mr. CALHOUN presented the memorial of a large number of citizens of Charleston, for the establishment of a Navy Yard, Dry Dock and Depot at that place: referred.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16.

Mr. HOWARD stated to the House that he had this morning received a communication from the Secretary of State, in relation to the state of things on the northern frontier, which called imperiously for the immediate action of the House on the bill for the preservation of the neutral relations of the United States on the northern frontier. He sent to the Chair several communications from Generals Scott and Brady on the subject which, were read.

Mr. HOWARD said, there being no law for the protection of the peace of the frontier, which could reach the case, it had necessarily to interpose the military power.

The bill from the Senate, entitled an act to amend "an act in addition to an act to punish certain crimes against the United States," was then read a second time.

[The bill provides for the arrest, trial, and punishment of persons levying troops, or collecting military stores, on the frontier of the United States for transportation to any place within any foreign state or colony contiguous with the United States, when the circumstances of the case shall render it probable that the troops and stores were intended to be employed in carrying on a war against any citizens or subjects of such contiguous State or colony.]

Mr. HOWARD offered an amendment to the bill, providing that the provisions of the bill should not extend to the trade in arms or munitions of war between this and other countries, not contiguous.

Mr. HOLSEY opposed any immediate and hasty action on the bill.

Mr. LOOMIS suggested that he should be under the necessity of offering a substitute for the whole bill.

After some further discussion, in which Messrs. Howard, Shields, Holsey, and Smith took part, the amendment offered by Mr. HOWARD was agreed to.

Mr. FILLMORE spoke generally against the bill.

Mr. SMITH, of Maine, said the objections pointed out against the bill were sufficient to defeat its passage here. He declared that the bill could never be executed by a free people.

Mr. LOOMIS offered a substitute for the bill, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Fletcher, Taylor, Howard, Holsey, Shepard, Mason, of Ohio, and Thomson, of S. C. when,

On motion of Mr. MASON, of Ohio,

The House adjourned.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17.

Mr. McKAY, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to authorize the Secretary of War to purchase of the authorities of Key West so much of the

streets as intersect the grounds now owned by the Government.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting, in compliance with a provision in the 5th section of the act of April 21, 1808, concerning the public contracts, &c, a statement of all the contracts made by this Department during the year 1837.

Also, a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, accompanied by 275 copies of the Naval Register for the year 1838.

The House resumed the consideration of the Canada bill.

Mr. MASON, of Ohio, who had the floor from yesterday, addressed the House at large in support of the bill, and in reply to various objections which had been urged against it.

Mr. BYNUM obtained the floor, but yielded it, temporarily, at the request of Mr. HOWARD, who, observing that the House would naturally be anxious to know, from the latest authentic advice, the existing state of things on the Canada frontier, sent to the Clerk's table and asked to have read, two letters. Leave being given, they were read.

During the debate various amendments were made.

The reprinting of the bill, together with all the amendments proposed, was then ordered,

And the House adjourned.

MONDAY, FEB. 19.

The bill to provide for the security of our neutral relations on the Canada frontier was taken up, and was, after some consideration, recommitted, with all the amendments appended thereto.

On motion of Mr. EVANS,

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the construction of the military road in the State of Maine, authorized by the joint resolution of Congress, approved March 2, 1829, or with such alterations and variations of the same as public interest and the security of the frontier may require.

On motion of Mr. INGHAM,

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to cause the survey and map of the harbor and mouth of Connecticut river, made under the direction of the Topographical Bureau in 1836, to be communicated to this House; and that he cause the map to be reduced, if necessary, to prepare it for publication.

On motion of Mr. HOFFMAN,

Resolved, That the Committee on the Militia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of purchasing as many copies or volumes of "Scott's Tactics for Infantry, Light Infantry and Riflemen," as may be necessary to supply, according to rank, the militia officers in the States and Territories of the United States.

On motion of Mr. GRANT,

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of the General Government repairing Fort Ontario, in the village of Oswego, in the State of New York, and establishing a military post at said village.

Mr. FILLMORE submitted the following resolution, which, by the rule, lies over one day:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested, if it be not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to this House any information possessed by him respecting the capture and destruction of the steamboat *Caroline*, at Schlosser, during the night of the 29th December last, and the murder of citizens of the United States on board, and all the particulars thereof, not heretofore communicated; and especially to inform the House whether said capture was authorized, commanded, or sanctioned, or has been avowed by the British authorities or officers, or any of them; and also whether steps have been taken by him to obtain satisfaction from the Government of Great Britain on account of said outrage; and to communicate to the House all correspondence or communications relative thereto, which have passed between the Government of the United States, or any of the public authorities of either.

Mr. GRANT submitted the following resolution, at the request of Mr. BRONSON, who was confined to his room by indisposition, and it was adopted.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to communicate to this House the following information, viz:

1. How many volunteers and militia have been mus-

tered into, or employed in, the service of the United States, within the last six years, and the number of mounted men.

2. When, where, and for what purpose, such volunteers or militia were employed or mustered into the service of the United States, and the length of time they continued in such service.

3. The difference in the expense, if any there has been, between the employment of such volunteers or militia, and the troops of the regular army; and generally the estimated difference of expense between the employment and maintenance of regular troops and militia or volunteers.

On motion of Mr. MONTGOMERY,
Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be instructed to report to this House,

1st. The names, class, and number of vessels that have been built or selected for the Exploring Expedition. What number (if any,) have been selected or built that have been abandoned; by whom selected or built, and the causes why they have been rejected, and upon whose recommendation.

2d. The numbers of officers and persons appointed to said service, with their names, rank, pay, dates of appointment, and the duties of those not ordinarily attached to a marine corps.

3d. The amount already appropriated for said service, the amount expended, with a statement of what will be the probable amount yet required before sailing. The amount that will be required annually to support said expedition while out.

4th. A copy of the orders under which the squadron are to sail.

On motion of Mr. MERCER,
Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to lay before this House a statement of the relative cost attending the enlistment, clothing, equipment and maintenance, including the transportation for a given distance, of mounted men, or cavalry, and infantry, in the service of the United States.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS,
Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to this House copies of all papers on file in the War Department, concerning the title of the United States to Friends Ore Bank, near Harper's Ferry, in Jefferson county, Virginia.

On motion of Mr. LEGARE,
Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of ordering a survey of the bar of Charleston, and especially the northern channel thereof, and making adequate appropriation for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. RHETT,
Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy do report to this House, whether any survey has been made by order of the Navy Department, of St. Helena bar, in the State of South Carolina, with a view of ascertaining whether any buoys, beacons, or light houses, are necessary for the safe navigation of that bar, and the places where they should be placed; and what will be the probable expense of the buoys, lights, and beacons, recommended by the survey, if any has been made.

On motion of Mr. CAMPBELL, of Tennessee,
Resolved, That document No. 34, now on the files of this House, be referred to the Committee on Claims, and that said committee inquire into the expediency of paying the company of Tennessee volunteers therein mentioned, and such other company or companies of infantry or mounted Tennessee volunteers, as organized and equipped themselves for the Creek and Florida campaigns in the year 1836, but who were not mustered into the service.

On motion of Mr. BOND,
Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands, who are already instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting certain appropriations of said lands to officers and soldiers of the Virginia State Line in the Revolutionary war, be, and the same are hereby, also instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending such appropriations to all other American officers, soldiers, seamen, and marines, of that war, so as to equalize the bounty of each; and if any reason for discriminating in favor of the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line exist, that the same be reported to this House.

On motion of Mr. E. WHITTLESEY, of Ohio,
Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by

law for the survey of a shoal on Sunken Island, near the Western Sister, and to the southward thereof, in Lake Erie, and for marking the boundary of said shoal, on Sunken Island, by suitable buoys.

On motion of Mr. LEWIS,
Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to furnish the House of Representatives copies of the following papers:

1. A copy of a certain contract made between Gen. Thomas S. Jesup, certain Creek Indian Chiefs, and Jas. C. Watson & Co.

2. Copies of all letters addressed to, or transmitted from the War Department to any official, or other persons, concerning said contract.

3. Copies of the legal opinions of Messrs. Crawford and Balch, commissioners appointed to investigate the frauds practised upon the Creeks, in the sales of their reserves upon said contracts, together with copies of the evidence before them, and arguments of counsel.

4. A copy of the ratification of said contract by the Executive, and of any papers purporting to be the assent of the Creek reserves to said contract of said Jesup, Creek Chiefs, and said Watson and others.

5. Also, a copy of any other contract made for Creek reservations by Chiefs of the Creek nation, purporting to be on the behalf of their people, since the month of August, 1836, and on file in the war Department.

On motion of Mr. CHAPMAN,
Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of increasing the pay of volunteers when in the service of the United States; also, of granting a quantity of land, in proportion to rank, to each officer and soldier who has served for twelve months during the present war with the Seminole Indians in Florida.

On motion of Mr. HARRISON, of Missouri,
Resolved, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of constructing a military road from Jefferson Barracks, in the State of Missouri, to Fort Leavenworth, on the western frontier of said State.

On motion of Mr. CARY, by consent,
Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the survey of the waters and islands of the upper parts of Lake Erie, Detroit river, Lake St. Clair, the Flats at the mouth of St. Clair river, Saginaw Bay, Thunder Bay islands, the Straits of Mackinack, the islands at the foot of Lake Michigan, the straits and waters leading from Lake Huron to Lake Superior, and other waters and islands of Green Bay.

Also, into the expediency of making an appropriation for the erection of a light-house at or near *Point aux Barques*, at or near Presque Isle Harbor, or Manitaw Island, on Big Beaver Island, at the mouth of Gallien river; of South Black river; of North Black river; of Muskegon river; of St. Mary's river; of Clinton river; at Stoney Point; and at *Point Detour*. Also, a beacon light at Mackinac, and at the artificial entrance of the River Raisin.

TUESDAY, FEB. 20.

Mr. INGHAM reported a bill in relation to building, purchasing, and providing materials for vessels of war.

Mr. I. also reported a bill to alter and regulate the navy rations.

Mr. I. also reported a bill to regulate the pay and emoluments of pursers in the navy.

The resolution offered by Mr. PETRIKEN on the 22d December, calling for information respecting navy pensions, was taken up and agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21.

The House took up the bill to provide for the security of our neutral relations on the Canada frontier. Without taking any question thereon, the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22.

Mr. C. H. WILLIAMS, on leave, laid on the table an amendment he proposed to submit to the bill providing for the support of the West Point Academy, when said bill should come up for consideration; which was ordered to be printed.

The House then took up the neutrality bill, but came to no final decision upon it.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

OFFICIAL.

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
WEST POINT, FEB. 19. 1838.

SIR: It becomes my duty to inform you that the buildings occupied by the engineering, chemical, and philosophical departments, and the library, were consumed last night by fire. The fire originated in one of the engineering rooms, used on sundays as a reading room, and was not discovered until it had so far spread as to render all efforts to extinguish it useless.

In communicating this unfortunate occurrence to you, it is gratifying to have it in my power to state that the books of the library, the philosophical instruments, and the chemical apparatus, were all saved, by the timely exertions of the officers and cadets. Of course, many articles have been more or less injured by the rapid manner in which they had to be removed, but the loss will be inconsiderable, compared with the value of property exposed. The adjutant's office was immediately over the room where the fire originated, and I regret to inform you that all the records and papers were destroyed. I have been busy this forenoon in having the books and instruments secured, and have occupied rooms at the hotel for that purpose.

The misfortune will only cause a delay of two or three days in the academic exercises.

I have, sir, to request that a court of inquiry may be ordered for the purpose of investigating the cause of the accident.

No time will be lost in laying before you the extent of the damages sustained.

With the highest respect, &c.

R. E. DE RUSSY.

Lieut. Col. and Superintendent M. A.

Brig. Gen. CHARLES GRATOIT,
Chief Engineer, U. S.

FLORIDA.

Extract of a letter from a highly respectable officer of the army, to a member of the Senate, dated.

"FORT BASINGER, Feb. 8, 1838.

"So much for myself. Now, sir, I will give you a few lines relative to Florida, and the Indians.

"We (Col. Taylor's army) have just returned from the Everglades. They may be said to commence about 40 or 50 miles southeast of this place, and are on the south side of Lake Oak-o-chobee.

The Everglades are what we, at the northwest, term a wet prairie. It is a large wet prairie, or grassy lake, of which the Indians and negroes know but little, and where they cannot live a month without suffering.

"We saw but few Indians, and they fled rapidly. We took about sixty horses, and ascertained that their cattle were exhausted. Col. Taylor has taken from them, since his fight, about six hundred head. We found, on our last excursion, but few cattle tracks, and only two cows were taken. The Indians are suffering for food; in all their camps we found that they had subsisted on palmetto roots and the cabbage-tree, which is never eaten by them except when hard run.

"One hundred and thirty Indians and negroes have come in since the fight, and they say many more will come in soon; that they are tired of the war and are hungry.

"Florida is, generally, a poor, sandy country. The southern portion is nearly all prairie, wet and dry alternately, healthy in winter, sickly in summer. Not more than one-tenth, at the utmost, of Florida, is fit for cultivation, and I would not give one good township of land, in Illinois or Michigan, for every foot of land in East Florida.

"The Indian prisoners now admit that they lost twenty killed on the ground, and a great many wounded, in the fight with Col. Taylor. They had a strong position, and fought well, but were terribly whipped, and have never returned near the ground since."

Correspondence of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.
FLORIDA WAR.

JUPITER INLET, E. F.

January 27, 1838. }

We arrived at this place this morning, after one of the most extraordinary marches ever made in this or any other country, considering the obstacles to overcome. For nearly two hundred miles, we have passed through an unknown region, cutting roads through dense hammocks, passing innumerable cypress swamps and pine barrens, interspersed with a nearly impassable growth of saw palmetto, and for the last three days wading nearly up to the men's waists in water. Our privations have not been less than our fatigue, the men being nearly naked, and one third of them destitute of shoes. We arrived on the Lochee Hatchee, which empties into Jupiter Inlet, on the 24th instant. When within four miles of the place, word was brought that the enemy were posted there in a dense hammock, on both sides of the stream, and had fired upon our advanced guard. The dragoons and mounted men, mostly Tennesseans, immediately set off, and the artillery advanced as quickly as possible. When I came up I found them hotly engaged. We had a six pounder and howitzer, throwing grape, shells, and congreve rockets into the densest part of the hammock—if such there could be, where every part was so thick that a man could not see three feet ahead of him—while the Tennesseans entered on the left flank, the dragoons on the right, and the artillery in the centre.

The main body of the Indians were posted on the opposite side of the stream, which, when our men came to it, they found in most places over their heads. Many of them contrived to get over, when the Indians fled up and down the hammock, and in a few minutes totally disappeared. We had two killed in the engagement and seven wounded of the artillery, and five killed and twenty-three wounded of the Tennesseans; four of the latter have since died. Gen. Jesup was wounded in the early part of the action, the ball laying open the left cheek just below the eye. The same day we built a bridge across the stream, and passed the next day to Jupiter Inlet for supplies, which had been ordered there from St. Lucie. We are now building a depot at this place and shall leave to-morrow in pursuit of the Indians—in what direction I know not. Fortunately for us, Major Kirby and Lieut. Powell arrived here last night from the St. Lucie with supplies, when we were out of forage and with only two days provisions for the men. I could tell you much of the country, had I time, ink and paper, but I have very little of the former and none of the latter. All I can say is that it is a most hideous region, in which nothing but serpents and frogs can exist. The Indians say themselves that they cannot live here after March. While you are freezing we are melting with the heat, which equals that of July in New York. Our force at present is about as follows:

Artillery,	-	-	-	400
Dragoons,	-	-	-	600
Tennesseans,	-	-	-	400
Delaware Indians,	-	-	-	35

FORT JUPITER, Jupiter Inlet, E. F. }

Feb. 4, 1838. }

An opportunity offering of sending a letter by Maj. Kirby, who leaves in an hour or two on his return to Fort Pierce for supplies, I send you the latest information of our proceedings. We have been delayed at this place until the present time, by want of shoes for the men, one-third of them being barefooted, and most of them having their clothes torn off. This is not surprising, considering the length of our march, and the nature of the country through which we have passed, one-half of which is covered with the saw palmetto, and the other half with water and saw grass, destroying not only their shoes and clothes, but severely lacerating their flesh. The shoes having ar-

rived, an order is issued for our march to-morrow. We shall go on in pursuit of the Indians as far south as Cape Florida. Col. Pierce, who was here yesterday, will proceed with part of the 1st artillery and sailors under Lieut. Powell, of the navy, to Key Biscayan, by water, to prevent their progress further south. The General is of opinion that we shall again encounter them on the Potomac, thirty miles south. Col. Taylor, with his command, was day before yesterday within twenty-one miles of us, at one of our old camps, but suddenly left it on learning that the friendly Indians had been attacked by the Seminoles, in pursuit of the latter. One hundred and twenty of the 2d dragoons and a company of Alabamians were detached by General J. to join his command.

The greater part of the dragoons will be dismounted, in consequence of their horses being worn out. Our time for operation is becoming limited. Beyond March no human being could live in this country. Even the Indians themselves acknowledge that it is uninhabitable. The Indians are evidently becoming scattered. A party of Delawares, in scouting the other day, came on the recent trail of several of the enemy, which they pursued, and presently overtook one of the party. He quickly hid himself in a small cypress swamp, which they thoroughly searched in every direction without success. On a second search one of the party came up to a large cypress tree, under the root of which the fugitive had entirely concealed himself, but imagining he was discovered, he suddenly jumped up, which frightened the Delaware's horse in such a manner that it threw him. He quickly recovered his feet, however, and was in the act of firing when the Seminole levelled and shot him through the left hand, the ball coming out at the wrist. The Delaware, altho severely wounded, supported his rifle on his arm, and shot him through the body, and bore his scalp in triumph to the camp. An officer, who was examining the country in the neighborhood of the inlet, came across an Indian camp, in which he found part of the log-book of the *Lovely Keziah*, the account of whose shipwreck I saw in the papers. It could not have been far from this that she was stranded, as we found the Indian packs left on the battle ground, containing rice, evidently taken from her.

ARRIVAL OF A BRITISH DESPATCH VESSEL.—H. B. M. corvette *Pearl*, Lord Clarence Paget, Commander, 23 days from Bermuda, arrived in Hampton Roads on Tuesday, 27th, and came up on Wednesday morning, 28th ult., and anchored off the Naval Hospital.

This ship brings despatches for the British Legation at Washington, which were received at Bermuda by the packet from England, and immediately forwarded by the *Pearl*, which was then at Bermuda.

The *Pearl* has had a very boisterous passage, having encountered, during the whole of it, a continuance of strong adverse gales.—*Norfolk Herald*.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the United States Gazette.

SIR.—The following is a list of the U. S. ship *St. Louis's* officers,—all well. Lagayra, 8th January, 1838—to sail to-morrow for Puerto Cabello, which be kind enough to publish.

THOMAS PAINE, Esq., *Commander*. Timothy G. Benham, John M. Gardner, Henry J. Paul, Roger Perry, *Lieutenants*. Jones W. Plummer, *Surgeon*. George W. Evans, *Assistant do.* C. F. M. Spotswood, *Master*. Lloyd Jones Bryan, *P. Midshipman*. Wm. P. Moran, *Captain's Clerk*. Henry P. Robertson, J. Murray Nowell, A. Norvell Murray, W. Read McKinney, George W. Rodgers, Van Rensselaer Morgan, McKean Buchanan, act'g *Midshipmen*. Jas. Mersey, *Boatswain*. Chas. Fales, *Gunner*. John Horner, *Carpenter*. John Burdine, *Sail Maker*.

ARMY.

OFFICIAL.

The attention of officers, having to make official communications to General Head Quarters, is particularly called to paragraph 17, Art. XLI, of the general Regulations of the Army, in which it is stated that such communications will be addressed to the "Adjutant General."

The object of this notice is to prevent any irregularity in the correspondence of the officers, in case of a temporary absence of the Adjutant General, and to exonerate the Head Quarters from any unnecessary charge for postage.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

No. 7. Feb. 23—Leave of absence for three months to Lieut. Tappen, 5th Infantry, and Lieut. McKavett, 7th Infantry.

Captain G. Morris, 4th Infantry, relieved from Indian duty, and ordered to join his company after settlement of accounts.

NAVY.

ORDERS.

Feb. 27—Mid. W. Reid, Naval School, New York.

23—Lieut. T. Turner, transferred from frigate *Macedonian* to frigate *Columbia*.

March 2—Mid. W. B. Fitzgerald, frigate *Columbia*.

3—P. Mid. B. M. Dove, detached from *schr. Active*.

Purser J. Dwyer, *schr. Grampus*, W. Indies. Additional officers ordered to the *Levant*.

Passed *Midshipmen*, S. Decatur, R. C. Cogdell.

Midshipmen, C. M. Morris, H. Godman, J. Guest, A. S. Drake, C. S. Cooper, N. Barnes, Jr., J. H. M. Madison, J. W. Reid, J. B. Creighton.

APPOINTMENT.

Joseph Dwyer, of Tennessee, to be a Purser, from the 20th Feb., 1838.

VESSELS REPORTED.

Ship *Erie*, Com'r Ten Eyck, spoken 16th ult. off Montaug Point.

Brig *Pioneer*, Lieut. Com. Newman, from a cruise on the coast, at Boston, 27th ult.

Schr. Active, Lieut. Com. Woolsey, from a cruise on the coast, to supply vessels in distress, was towed to the navy yard, at New York, by the steamboat *Sampson*, on Thursday last.

Ship *Vandalia*, Com'r. Gwinn, off Galveston on the 14th Feb. All well on board.

At Callao, Nov. 6, U. S. ship of the line *North Carolina*, Com. Ballard, all well; to sail for Chili shortly.

REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.

First Lieut. H. B. Nones ordered to the *Jackson*, coast of Florida.

Second Lieut. J. J. Nimmo, to the *McLane*, at New Bedford.

Third Lieut. T. Osburn, to the *Madison*, coast of Florida.

APPOINTMENTS.

William H. Joyner, to be third Lieutenant, Feb. 13, 1838, and ordered to the *Jackson*.

William Wallace Smith, to be third Lieutenant, Feb. 24, 1838, and ordered to the *Woodbury*.

DEATHS.

In this city, on Monday evening, Major ELIJAH J. WEED, Quarter Master of the U. S. Marine Corps.

At Detroit, on the 16th ult., of injuries received from an accidental fall a week or two previously, THOMAS HUNT, Esq., Register of the Land Office at Detroit, formerly Captain of the 5th regiment of Infantry. The amiable manners and correct deportment of Capt. HUNT won for him the esteem of his brother officers while he was in the army, and of a large circle of friends in this city, where he resided several years in the discharge of bureau duties in the War Department. He has left a most estimable wife and several children to mourn their sudden and irreparable bereavement.

At Fort Dulany, Punta Rosa, Charlotte harbor, E. F. on the 4th December last, WILLIAM TAITE, 1st sergeant, E company, U. S. Marine Corps, aged 33 years.

At Philadelphia, on the 14th ult., NELSON V. ROBERTS, sergeant U. S. Marine Corps, aged 37 years.

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